

(Draft – Awaiting Final Approval)

**MINUTES OF THE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Refugee Education and Training Center, 250 West 3900 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84107

October 20, 2016

**Members Present:** Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co-Chair  
Rep. Paul Ray, Co-Chair  
Rep. Edward H. Redd, House Vice Chair  
Sen. Luz Escamilla  
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore  
Sen. Daniel Hemmert  
Sen. Deidre M. Henderson  
Sen. Todd Weiler  
Rep. Melvin R. Brown  
Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck  
Rep. Sandra Hollins  
Rep. Earl D. Tanner  
Rep. Raymond Ward

**Members Absent:** Sen. Mark B. Madsen  
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa  
Rep. Bradley M. Daw  
Rep. Robert Spendlove

**Staff Present:** Mr. Russell T. Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst  
Mr. Stephen C. Jardine, Fiscal Analyst  
Mr. Hector Zumaeta Santiago, Fiscal Analyst  
Ms. Clare Tobin Lence, Fiscal Analyst  
Ms. Tonya Hadley, Secretary

**Note:** A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Call to Order/ Approval of Minutes**

Co-Chair Ray called the meeting to order at 8:21 a.m. Mr. Clifton Sanders, Provost for Academic Affairs, Salt Lake Community College, welcomed the committee to the Meadowbrook Campus.

**MOTION:** Sen. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Escamilla absent for the vote.

**2. Highlight of Some Performance Measure Trends (Health- Gonorrhea)**

Dr. Joseph Miner, Executive Director, Department of Health (DOH), Sen. Christensen and Rep. Redd discussed increasing [Gonorrhea Rates in Utah](#) and how DOH is addressing the issue. Rep. Ward asked if the Gonorrhea screening also tests for Chlamydia and HIV. Dr. Miner affirmed. Sen. Weiler asked Dr. Miner to quantify how many people are infected. Dr. Miner stated there were 1,562 cases in 2016.

Rep. Chavez-Houck asked Dr. Miner to identify two or three things the State could do to make the biggest difference in reducing Gonorrhea cases. Dr. Miner answered that education of youth through schools and social media and educating clinicians is key. Rep. Chavez-Houck asked about federal funding streams

that might be available that the State could match. Dr. Miner said the Center for Disease Control has an interest in this problem and funding might become available.

### **3. Limitation on Expenditures from the Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) Transition Restricted Account**

Mr. Zumaeta shared background information on [USOR Transition Plan Financing](#). DWS has requested a six-month extension of the same funds to cover overhead costs.

### **4. Needs Assessment from H.B. 328, *Housing and Homeless Amendments***

Mr. Jonathan Hardy, Director of Housing and Community Development, Department of Workforce Services (DWS) and Rep. Chavez-Houck discussed [H.B. 328: Housing & Homeless Amendments Report](#).

### **5. Use of TANF for Access to High Quality School Readiness Programs**

Ms. Tracy Gruber, Director of Child Care, DWS, and Ms. Jennifer Throndsen, Literacy Coordinator, Utah State Office of Education (USOE), presented together about [\\$11,000,000 per yr. for S.B. 101 - High Quality School Readiness Program](#). Rep. Redd asked for “high-quality school” to be defined. Ms. Gruber answered that it is a preschool that meets the Ecker’s tool indicators across six domains.

Sen. Escamilla asked how programs are assessed and what the grant money is used for. In both sectors, preschools apply and are either approved or not approved. Rep. Ward asked when the funding became available. Ms. Gruber said they began planning March when the funds were approved. Actual funding came July 1, 2016. The grant money allowed for 206 families to receive a voucher.

Rep. Redd asked how families find out about the high-quality school opportunities. Ms. Gruber said DWS identifies Intergenerational Poverty (IGP) families and notifies them about the scholarships available.

Rep. Redd asked how much it costs to educate four-year-olds. Ms. Throndsen said in public school it costs \$2200 per student for nine months of instruction, 2-3 hours a day. Ms. Gruber said private providers are 12-month programs and provide care for up to eight hours a day. She said she will get the cost to the committee, but estimates it is \$4000-\$6000 per child.

Sen. Christensen expressed concern about carry-over funds in year four. Ms. Throndsen said there may be some leftover funds, because of rollover funding in year one. Ms. Gruber said DWS plans to expend all their funding in the three years allotted. Sen. Christensen asked what happens if the State cannot continue funding in the future. Ms. Gruber said that every year students age out of the program into Kindergarten. Sen. Christensen asked what they will do with the extra funding. Both ladies responded that they have not planned those steps yet.

Sen. Hemmert asked how they will measure the success in the program. Ms. Throndsen said all Kindergarteners will take the same Kindergarten readiness assessment. They will compare the students who were enrolled in the programs with their peers who were not.

Rep. Chavez-Houck asked about parent education. Ms. Throndsen responded with the family engagement requirement in the public-school program. Sen. Escamilla asked for clarification that the funding was \$60 million in TANF funding. Mr. Zumaeta affirmed.

## **6. Use TANF for Crisis/Respite Nurseries Report**

Ms. Sisifo Taatiti, Assistant Director of Program and Training, DWS, shared that the relevant providers received [TANF funding for Crisis and Respite Nurseries](#). Ms. Esterlee Molyneux, Director, Cache County Family Support Center, explained the purpose of the crisis nurseries and respite nurseries.

Co-Chair Ray asked what their plan was when the funding runs out. Ms. Molyneux said they will have success data to share with private donors. Co-Chair Ray asked if ongoing programs were being funded with this money and if staff are being hired with it. Ms. Molyneux said they are, but the agency is working on fixing this issue.

Rep. Tanner asked what age range of children they serve. Ms. Molyneux said ages 0-11. Rep. Tanner asked if they partner with preschools. Ms. Molyneux said they “can look into that”.

Sen. Escamilla praised the Family Support Center and expressed excitement for the new West Salt Lake center. She reminded the committee that the Family Support Center is an intervention that is saving the State money in the long run. She compared the \$744 cost per child to the \$40,000 cost of foster care.

Sen. Fillmore questioned the equalization of funding across counties. Ms. Molyneux answered that the cost is higher to operate in rural counties. Mr. Jardine said the rural counties came with an initial request for funding. Through the Legislative process, urban areas requested they also be included, so the intent language was written by the Legislature to be equalized funding.

## **7. Use of TANF for Homeless Children Supplemental Education, Succeed at the Club, UPSTART, and Sexual Violence/Assault Report**

### [TANF funding for Homeless Education, Succeed at the Club, UPSTART, and Sexual Violence initiatives](#)

Ms. Taatiti and Ms. Karen Sterling, Program Manager, Canyon School District, presented about after-school programs for homeless children. The Road Home program currently provides tutoring, youth development activities and meals for 152 kids.

Rep. Redd asked if this is the same program as “Succeed at the Club”. She said it was a different program. Rep. Redd asked about continuity problems with the homeless population. Ms. Sterling confirmed this is a challenge.

Rep. Redd then asked about UPSTART. Ms. Claudia Miner, Executive Director, UPSTART, explained the program. Rep. Redd asked for confirmation that the children served here are four-years-old. Ms. Miner affirmed. Rep. Redd stated that the IGP population would need a phone line, a computer of some kind, and the internet to access the program and likely could not afford those expenses. Ms. Miner said that the program pays for the families’ internet connection and loans them a Chromebook for the duration of the program. There are not transportation issues with UPSTART, because it’s online.

Co-Chair Ray asked about the difference in cost between high-quality preschool and UPSTART. Rep. Redd gave the cost for high quality preschool being \$2,200 per child in public education and \$4,000-6,000 for private providers. Ms. Miner added that UPSTART costs \$802 per child and could be done at the parent’s convenience. Sen. Hemmert reminded the committee that there is no daycare component with UPSTART.

## **8. Public Input on Topics on Today's Agenda**

No public input was given.

## **9. Should the Budget for Workforce Services Stay in the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee?**

Co-Chair Ray and Ms. Kathy Bounous, General Counsel, DWS, gave background information about the possibility of moving DWS' budget to the Business, Economic Development and Labor Appropriations Subcommittee (BEDL) because of DWS' focus on employment. Rep. Becky Edwards suggested to Ms. Bounous that the budget be moved to better fund homeless initiatives.

Ms. Bounous said it is hard to get appropriation requests through the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee (ASOC). She also stated that currently there are eight BEDL members that serve on DWS' board, whereas ASOC only has two members that do. Co-Chair Ray stated that those assignments change every two years and are decided by leadership.

Co-Chair Ray mentioned there were problems moving USOR last session. Mr. Darrin Brush, Director, USOR shared that consumer advocates have an opinion and the committee should speak to them as well.

Ms. Bounous asked if DWS could be allocated more money from BEDL's budget than ASOC's budget. Sen. Christensen asked if this is a disguise for a deference for more requests. Ms. Bounous mentioned the high price tag for the homelessness requests coming. Sen. Christensen praised ASOC's committee members for their dedication. He pointed out that this was Rep. Brown and Rep. Tanner's last meeting and they were present and participating.

Rep. Chavez-Houck shared her conflicted feelings. She reminded them that DWS has a Medicaid component. She said she would feel better about bifurcating the DWS budget. Rep. Redd asked what the opinion of the Governor's office. Ms. Bounous said the Lt. Governor supports the move. She added that Kristin Cox wasn't excited about it, but said she would support it.

Sen. Escamilla stressed the point that everything this committee had discussed since 8 a.m. today were budget items relating to DWS. She feels it would be a bad move. Sen. Weiler asked his colleagues how they will rank funding for disabilities compared to homelessness. He reminded them that DWS keeps people from being dependent on services. He said when DWS does a good job they face budget cuts. Sen. Christensen defended the committee's actions of funding higher priorities needs.

Rep. Ward asked for more time to research the motion before voting. Co-Chair Ray said the motion isn't the end of this discussion. The motion is a recommendation not a final decision.

**MOTION:** Sen. Christensen moved that the Social Services Appropriation Subcommittee recommends that DWS remain in the Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee. The motion passed with Sen. Fillmore, Sen. Hemmert, and Sen. Weiler voting in opposition.

## **10. Tour of Refugee Education and Training Center**

Mr. Asha Parekh, Director, Refugee Services Office, led a tour of the facility.

## **11. Report on TANF Reserve and Projected Uses**

Mr. Zumaeta shared the [Issue Brief: Workforce Services TANF funds; September 6, 2016](#).

Sen. Christensen asked if the block grant it is a variable amount. Mr. Zumaeta said it is a set amount.

Mr. Jardine's retirement was announced and he received a standing ovation for his 30 years of service.

## **12. Options for Using the Federal TANF Block Grants**

Ms. Rochelle Finzel, Group Director, National Conference of State Legislatures, gave options where Utah could use TANF funds using comparisons from other states. [National TANF Spending Trends](#)

Sen. Escamilla asked how other states leverage TANF for afterschool programs, especially pregnancy prevention. Ms. Finzel said it can be used for that. Rep. Tanner wanted to get a sense of the cost of after-school programs. Mr. Nathan Harrison, Finance Director, DWS, said afterschool programs are funded. It is a competitive process each year and new requirements are coming from the Feds.

## **13. Report of Options for Agencies Paying More than the Minimum Maintenance of Effort for Federal Grants**

Mr. Jardine explained what the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is on Federal Grants. Rep. Redd agreed to sponsor a [joint resolution](#) for the 2017 General Session to reduce the amount obligated by state agencies for the minimum MOE amount required. Mr. Jardine and Rep. Redd stressed the need to create a 1:1 relationship with the MOE required for the funds granted from the Federal Government. This is important because states lose flexibility in budgeting. Under the current arrangement, MOE requirements could be violated by shifting across certain programs within a department.

Sen. Escamilla asked for the historical reason why this is a problem. Mr. Jardine explained. Rep. Chavez-Houck stated that we need to look at the totality of what the State has been given from the Federal Government to see if what they are asking for is equitable. Sen. Fillmore shared that school districts are required to pay MOE all the time. Rep. Redd asked him if he would be the Senate sponsor for the bill.

## **14. Managing the \$173 Million Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) Budget**

Mr. Jardine discussed the [Issue Brief: Managing the \\$173 million DCFS budget; October 18, 2016](#).

Mr. Jardine highlighted that DCFS used to ask for caseload increase annually, but has not for last several years. He feels this is likely attributable to better budget management. DCFS caseloads are unpredictable. He suggested the state look at the relationship and utility between foster and proctor care. Proctor care is through private providers, which costs more.

## **15. Regulations and Requirements Regarding Foster Parenting**

Ms. Diane Moore, Director, Office of Licensing, DCFS, discussed the [Foster Family Licensing Requirements](#) that were revised in the Fall 2014. This allows potential Foster Families to license quicker. Co-Chair Ray asked what the turnaround time is between application and placement of a foster child. Ms. Moore said they are working toward a 60-day total turnaround time. It previously has been about six months. Co-Chair Ray hasn't had a DCFS-related constituent complaint in 2 years, compared to weekly

before. He said that there is always more family strife when the economy is down though.

## **16. Other Business**

Co-Chair Ray reminded the committee that staff need their recommendations for discussion topics by January 10, 2017. Mr. Frandsen said that receiving them by the end of 2016 would be better. A deadline of December 31, 2016 was agreed upon.

Gratitude was given to Rep. Tanner and Rep. Brown for their service.

The following handouts were given out, but not discussed:

[Mentally Ill and Emergency Room Memorandum](#)

[90 Day Generic Prescription Program Implementation Report](#)

[Top 5 percent Costs- Care Management Strategies- Healthy U](#)

[Top 5 percent Costs- Care Management Strategies- Molina](#)

[Top 5 percent Costs- Care Management Strategies- Health Choice](#)

[Human Services TANF ATR Performance Measures DSAMH](#)

## **17. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Brown moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Hollins absent for the vote.

Co-Chair Ray adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.